

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Eric Newland, Area Management Biologist  
Breena Apgar-Kurtz, Asst. Area Management Biologist  
Upper Yukon Area Office  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
Phone: (907) 459-7274  
Fax: (907) 459-7271  
Subsistence Fishing Schedule:  
(866) 479-7387 (toll free), or  
in Fairbanks, call (907) 459-7387

U.S. Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Federal Subsistence Board  
Geoffrey L. Haskett, Regional Director  
Kathleen O'Reilly-Doyle, Acting  
Asst. Regional Director Subsistence  
Fred Bue, Yukon Area Inseason Manager  
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office  
101 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rm 110  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
Phone: (907) 455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997  
Fax (907) 455-1853

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#### **2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #74**

#### **Summer Announcement #68, Koyukuk River and District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules**

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 114,000 Chinook salmon through July 21 is well below the historical average of 144,000 for this date. Based on the assessment information to date, the current projection is for a total run size similar to the poor run of 2012.

The 2013 Chinook salmon run is coming to an end in the middle river. Subsistence fishing restrictions and schedules have been relaxed in District 4. However, escapement monitoring projects in the Koyukuk River drainage indicate that continued subsistence fishing restrictions are warranted to protect Koyukuk River Chinook salmon stocks on their way to the spawning areas.

**Koyukuk River:** Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 26, fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

**Subdistrict 4-A** (from  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Cone Point, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik and Grayling Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A is open for two 48-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less and Chinook salmon may be kept when caught in fish wheels.

**Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C** (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby):

Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C is open for two 48-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less and Chinook salmon may be kept when caught in fish wheels.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 or in Fairbanks call (907) 459-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Fairbanks at 459-7274. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be contacted in Fairbanks at 456-0418.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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